

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3634
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
WORKERS IN ASBESTOS CEMENT PRODUCTS
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken note of a recent survey conducted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) wherein asbestos is believed to be responsible for death of a lakh workers annually across the world;
- (b) if so, the number of workers at present engaged in manufacture of asbestos based cement products; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the workers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL)

- (a): The Government have not received any report from International Labour Organisation (ILO) relating to recent survey conducted by them wherein asbestos is believed to be responsible for death of a lakh workers annually across the world.
- (b): As per the details collected by Labour Bureau, Shimla about 8321 workers are engaged in the manufacture of asbestos cement and other cement products.
- (c): The manufacture, handling and processing of asbestos and its product has been one of the industries involving hazardous processes as given in the First Schedule under the Factories Act, 1948. The provisions under Chapter IV-A of the Factories Act relating to hazardous processes therefore become applicable to this class of industry. The permissible threshold limit of asbestos has also been indicated in the second Schedule of the Factories Act.

Under Section 87 concerning dangerous operation, the State Government are empowered to make rules applicable to any factory or class or description of factories on dangerous operations where the State Government is of the opinion that any manufacturing process or operation carried on in a factory exposes any person employed in it to a serious risk of bodily injury poisoning or disease. The State Governments have also framed rules under Section 87 and Schedule on Handling and Processing of Asbestos, Manufacture of any Article of Asbestos and any other process of manufacture or otherwise in which asbestos is used in any form has been notified by them on the basis of Model Rules prepared by Director General, Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI).